

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/895,217

Examiner

Shefali D. Patel

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, NOBUYUKI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the phone interview on August 8, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-10, 16-20 and 22-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8/9/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JINGGEWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Whitham (Reg. No., 32,635) on August 8, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claim 6 as follow:

Line 2-4 delete “, which electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data”

Line 6 after “image data” insert - - , wherein the electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data - -

Please amend claim 16 as follow:

Line 2-4 delete “, which electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data”

Line 6 after “image data” insert - - , wherein the electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data - -

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Please amend claim 22 as follow:

Line 3-5 delete “, which electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data”

Line 9 after “electronic watermark” insert - - , wherein said electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data - -

Please amend claim 23 as follow:

Line 2-4 delete “, which electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data”

Line 9 after “electronic watermark” insert - - , wherein said electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data - -

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks on pages 6-9, filed on July 19, 2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6-10, 16-20 and 22-24 are allowed and re-numbered from 1-13.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention defines a method for, a computer-readable recording medium, and a device that detects an electronic watermark from an original/compressed image. The claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art by the manner in which the electronic watermark includes the information.

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The claimed combination allows for improving a method of detecting an electronic watermark from an image.

Detecting watermark from an image is conventional in the art. However, the prior art of record fails to teach a circuit which reads said compressed original image data, wherein the electronic watermark includes information consisting of first bits defined as CCI (copy protection) bits, second bits defined as reserved and third bits as undefined bit-data; a circuit which decodes said compressed original image to produce a decoded data; a circuit which performs inverse discrete cosine transformation (IDCT) for said decoded data; a circuit which detects electronic watermark data embedded in data for which IDCT has been performed along with the value of said bit-data for which is defined a plurality of instructions; a table file including one of said instruction for said value of said bit-data; and a circuit which performs a processing according to said instruction in said table file. These elements in combination with all of the other elements of the claims are not taught or fairly suggested in the prior art of record. The dependent claims 7-10, 17-20 and 24 are allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

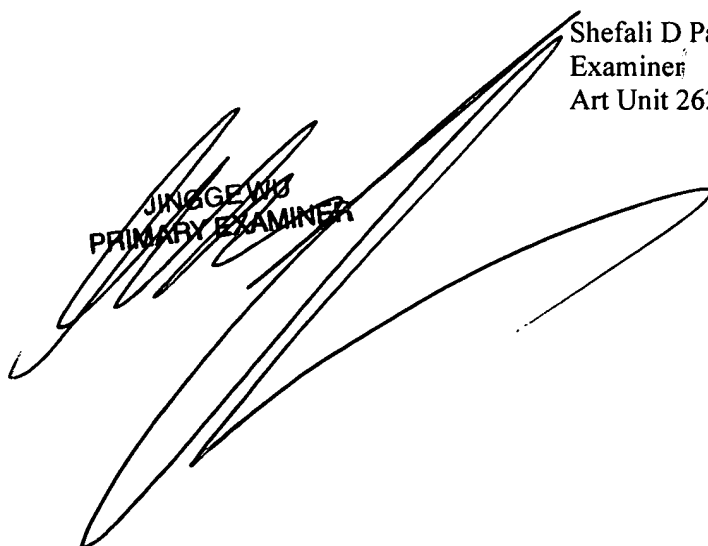
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shefali D. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm (First Friday Off).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sdp


Shefali D Patel
Examiner
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JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER